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The *UNIVERSAL SPECTATOR*, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

By **Henry Stonecastle**, of *Lincoln's-Inn*, *Esq*;

SATURDAY March 5, 1743.

From my CHAMBERS, Lincoln's-Inn.

IN my last I gave an Abstract of the humourous Part of a learned, as well as humourous, Pamphlet, on the *Language* of *Beasts*: I did not quote either the *philosophical* or *religious* Arguments which the Author has made use of, because they would have extended these Papers on that Subject to too great a Length; therefore I must refer my more curious Readers to the Original. I promis'd to make some *supplemental Reflections* on the Author's humourous Sentiments; but as others of his, equally entertaining, consequently follow, I shall take the Liberty of introducing them; and on the Whole, add in my next Paper an Appendix of my own.

After the Author has said, that 'brutish and vicious Habits debase the Soul, degrade it from its proper Rank and Dignity, corrupting its Faculties,' he observes, 'There is a wonderful *Gradation* in the *Scale* of *Beings*, which is a noble Key to open to us the more remote and invisible Scenes of Nature and Providence.

'Where (says Mr. *Hildrop*) is *he* that can settle the Boundaries of the *material* and *spiritual* World? Who can precisely determine the lowest Species of Animals, and the first and highest Degree of inanimate Beings? The Difference betwixt Man and Man is inconceivably great. Were we to compare a *Newton*, a *Locke*, or a *Boyle*, with that Sort of human Creatures commonly distinguish'd by the Name and Title of *Honest*, or *very honest Fellows*, who have very little besides their Shape and Risibility (or Faculty of laughing, which some Philosophers make to be the formal Difference betwixt rational and irrational Animals) to distinguish them from Brutes, we should be almost tempted to think them of a different Species: But were we to compare the Understandings, the Tempers, the Abilities of some Men and some Brutes, we should find such little Difference that it would be hard to say to which we should give the Preference. The *Brute* in the *Stye*, the *Stable* or the *Kennel*, and the *Brute* in the *Parlour*, are very often distinguish'd to the Advantage of the former, as the more *harmless*, the more *useful*, the more *virtuous* Animals of the two. Nor has the Difference, in Point of Understanding, been much less considerable. Now, as the *Rule of Analogy* makes it more than probable, that in the ascending Part of the Scale there are numberless Ranks and Orders of intelligent Beings, excelling us in several Degrees of Perfection, ascending upwards towards the infinite Perfection of the Creator, by gentle Steps and Differences, that are hardly at a discernable Distance from each other; so in the descending Part, there are doubtless numberless Ranks and Orders of Beings endued with lower Faculties, lower Degrees of Life and Perception, till you come down, by imperceptible Degrees, to the Vegetables and inanimate Brute-Matter: But what are the specifick Differences that distinguish these several Ranks and Degrees of Being, is not easy to conceive.

'Who can fix the direct Point where the last dying Sound expires in dead Silence? Who can discern where the last glimmering Ray of Light is swallow'd up in total Darkness and Obscurity? Who can determine the Limits betwixt the Ebb and Flowing of the Tide, or describe the single Point which is the ending of the one, and the beginning of the other? Nor are the Boundaries betwixt the Human and Brute Understanding more easily distinguish'd. Who can determine the lowest Degree of *human Ignorance*, and the highest Pitch of *brutal Knowledge*? Who can say where the one ends, and the other begins, or whether there be any other Difference betwixt them but in Degree?

'Mr. *Locke* in his 27th Chapter of *Identity and Diversity*, has this Story. *Page* 284. *Edit.* 8vo. "I think I may be confident, *says he*, that whoever "should see a Creature of his own Shape, though "it had no more Reason, as to its Life, than a Cat, "or a Parrot, would call him still a Man; or "whosoever should hear a Cat or a Parrot discourse, "reason, and philosophize, would call or think "it nothing but a Cat or a Parrot; and say, the "one was a dull, irrational Man, and the other a "very intelligent rational Parrot. A Relation we "have in an Author of great Note (meaning Sir "*William Temple*'s Memoirs) may illustrate this. I had "a mind to know from Prince *Maurice*'s own Mouth "the Account of a common but much credited Sto-"ry, that I had heard so often from many others, of "an old Parrot he had in *Brasil*, during his Govern-"ment there, that spoke, and ask'd, and answer'd "common Questions like a reasonable Creature; so "that those of his Train there generally concluded it "to be Witchery or Possession; and one of his Chap-"lains, who liv'd long afterwards in *Holland*, would "never, from that Time, endure a Parrot, but said "they all had a Devil in them. I had heard many "Particulars of this Story, and assevered by People "hard to be discredited; which made me ask Prince "*Maurice* what there was in it. He said, with his "usual Plainness and Dryness of Talk, that there was "something true, but a great deal false of what had "been reported. I desir'd to know of him what there "was of the first? He told me short and coldly, that "he had heard of such an old Parrot when he came to "*Brasil*; and though he believ'd nothing of it, and "'twas a good way off, he had the Curiosity to send "for it; that it was a very great and a very old one; "and when it came first into the Room where the "Prince was with a great many *Dutchmen* about him, "it said presently, What a Company of white Men "are here! They ask'd it what he thought that Man "was, pointing at the Prince? It answer'd, Some "General or other. When they brought it close to him "he ask'd it, † *D'ou venez vous?* it answer'd, *De "Marinnan*. The Prince, *A qui estes vous?* The "Parrot, *A un Portugueze*. The Prince, *Qui fais tu "la?* The Parrot, *Je garde les Poulet*. The Prince "laugh'd and said, *Vous gardes les Poules?* The Par-"rot answer'd, *Ouy, Moy, et je scay bien faire*, and "made the Chuck four or five times that People "use to make to Chickens when they call them. I "set down the Words of this worthy Dialogue in "*French* just as Prince *Maurice* said them to me. I "ask'd him in what Language the Parrot spake? "And he said in *Brasilian*. I ask'd him whether "he understood *Brasilian*? He said, No, but he had "taken Care to have two Interpreters by him; the "one a *Dutchman* who spoke *Brasilian*, and the other "a *Brasilian* that spoke *Dutch*; that he ask'd them "separately and privately, and both of them agreed "in telling him just the same Thing that the Parrot "said. I could not but tell this odd Story, because it "is so much out of the way, and from the first Hand, "and what may pass for a good one; for I dare say, "the Prince at least believ'd himself in all he told me, "having ever pass'd for a very honest and pious "Man. I leave it to Naturalists to reason, and to "other Men to believe as they please upon it.

'The Use Mr. *Locke* makes of this surprizing Story, is of a very particular Nature, and I must needs say, not without Violence applied to his Purpose. Hear his own Remark. The Prince, 'tis plain, who vouches this Story, and our Author who relates it from him, both of them call this Talker *a Parrot*; and I ask any one else, who thinks such a Story fit to be told; whether if this Parrot, and all of its kind, had always talk'd, as we have a Prince's Word for it, this one did; whether, I say, they would not have pass'd for a Race of *rational Animals*? So far the Question is properly stated, and may be easily answer'd. Without doubt they would. But, he proceeds to ask further, Whether for all that they would have been allow'd to be Men, and not Parrots? Why so? Unless it were thought absurd or impious to ascribe any Kind or Degree of Reason to Brutes; which is so far from being the Case, that I humbly conceive, there is at least a strong Probability of the contrary. And this Story, so well attested, is no contemptible Evidence in our Favour. Supposing, therefore, this to be the Case, the Question I would ask should be this: Does not this Parrot discover as evident Tokens at least of Reason and Understanding as many of our own Species, who are allow'd to be reasonable Creatures, and to make a tolerable Appearance in the gay World? Is there any discernible Difference betwixt the Conversation of this Bird, and many a sad unlucky Bird, who fancies himself a very pretty Fellow, and, perhaps, a very fine Gentleman? Let us, if you please, Madam, enter a little further into the Comparison. The Parrot, in so short a Conversation, could discover but few Ideas, necessarily involv'd in the Questions he was oblig'd to answer; but those few seem to be clear, distinct, and regularly adjusted; and if we may be allow'd to judge by this Specimen, he might have a larger and better Stock of intellectual Materials. *First of all*, it is plain, he could distinguish Colours, and the Difference betwixt his sooty Countrymen, and the white Attendants of the Prince. *Secondly*, He could distinguish Men from any other Species of Animals, by his calling the Prince's Attendants *white Men*. *Thirdly*, He had Geography enough to distinguish one Place from another, and to tell the Prince, that he came from *Marinnan*. *Fourthly*, He understood the abstracted Nature of Property, and the Relation he bore to the *Portugueze* Owner or Master, to whom he belong'd. *Fifthly*, He could infer that that Relation implied some sort of Service to be perform'd on his part, which was the Care of the Chickens. *Sixthly*, He discover'd that he understood the Nature of his Office, and how to execute it in a proper Manner, by making the Signals which the Mother used to make to her young Family, to warn them to fly from any imminent Danger, and put themselves under her Protection. It seems to appear from hence, that this sensible, honest, faithful Servant had as much Knowledge as was sufficient to qualify him for the Post that was assign'd him, of which he gave full Proof in his Examination by the Prince. You will tell me, perhaps, this was no Proof of his Understanding; it might probably be a Lesson which he had learn'd by Rote: But pray, Madam, is not the Probability as strong on the other Side? especially as you find, that the first Speech was the Effect of immediate Reflection without any leading Question to introduce it, and the rest were a Sequel of proper Answers to the several Questions that were propos'd by the Prince. But you may further

† *Whence came you? From Marinnan.* Prince. *To whom do you belong?* The Parrot. *To a Portugueze.* Prince. *What do you do there?* Parrot. *I look after the Chickens.* Prince. *You look after the Chickens?* Parrot. *Yes, I know how to do it very well.*

' reply, that as he had so few Ideas to work with, it ' would require a very moderate Degree of Under- ' standing, to be able to adjust them properly, and ' apply them justly upon proper Occasions. True, ' but the being able to do it at all, even in the lowest ' Degree, is confessing the Point I am labouring to ' prove. If he, this Parrot, talk'd rationally and had ' rational Ideas, it was, according to Mr. *Locke*, a ' *rational Parrot*, as it could compound and compare ' Ideas and form Conclusions: We may infer that ' others of the same Species are capable of similar Im- ' provements, and have Titles to rational Creatures: ' On the other Hand, if a slender Stock of Ideas, ' slow Apprehension, is sufficient Reason to strike ' them out of the Race of Rational Beings, I dread ' the Consequence: What terrible Havock must it ' make among the *Human Species*.

The Remainder of this Subject will be inserted in our next. The Letter from Oxford, sign'd Theophrastus, *will have all due Deference paid to it the first Opportunity.*

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Stockholm, Feb. 16. We hear from Abo that our Plenipotentiaries and those of Russia are arriv'd there, and have held their first Conference, in which nothing pass'd but the producing their full Powers on both Sides; the second Conference is not to be held until the Return of two Couriers, whom the Plenipoten- tiaries expect from their Courts, with Dispatches con- cerning the Declaration made to the Swedish Deputies at Petersbourg.

Stockholm, Feb. 12. On Saturday last a Resolution was taken by all the Orders of the States, that no Mo- tion or Proposal concerning the Succession to the Crown should be made by any Member, 'till such Time as the Grand Secret Deputation, jointly with the Se- nate, should have declar'd to the Dyet that such De- liberation might be enter'd into without any Prejudice to the Safety and Dignity of this Nation.

Copenhagen, Feb. 23. The Treaty of Commerce late- ly concluded with France is just made publick: It is to remain in force for fifteen Years. Our warlike Preparations go on as briskly as ever.

Genoa, Feb. 28. The Spanish Troops that took Quar- ters in the Chapter Lands, have at last withdrawn from thence. The Infant Don Philip has likewise revok'd the Orders he had issued against carrying out Corn from Savoy. It is said this is owing to the Represen- tations made by our Resident at Paris.

Vienna, Feb. 20. It is decided that Prince Charles of Lorrain shall set out for Brussels about the middle of next Month, in order to take Possession of the Post of Governor-General of the Austrian Netherlands: His Serene Highness is to take Bavaria in his Way, in or- der to settle some Things with Count Kevenhuller relating to the Operations of this Campaign.

Ratisbon, Feb. 28. The Body of Troops which the French are assembling on the Frontiers of the Upper Palatinate, encrease every Day by the Arrival of De- tachments from the Heart of Bavaria; hence we are confirm'd in our Opinion, that Marshal Eroglio in- tends to go and attack Prince Lobkowitz.

Leghorn, Feb. 15. According to the last Advices from Corsica, Baron Neuhoff's Manifesto has had a very great Effect on the People. The Deputies of the Pieves throng to Santa Reparata to tender Ho- mage to the Baron as their King; who makes them all take a new Oath, whereby they promise, in the Face of Heaven and Earth, to defend, maintain, and assist their new King, his Friends and Allies, against all his Enemies, and to take up Arms, whenever re- quir'd, in Defence of the Rights of the Queen of Hungary and the Great Duke of Tuscany. After this Baron Neuhoff set out for Corte, in order to call a General Dyet of the States of the Kingdom. These Advices add, that they expect some thousands of Jews, in order to make Trade flourish in that Island.

Genoa, Feb. 16. The Republick has sent particular Instructions to her Ministers at Paris, London and Vienna, concerning the new Turn of Affairs in Cor- sica. Our Minister at Paris has Orders to demand the Execution of the Guaranty of his Most Christian Ma- jesty relating to that Island. The second is charg'd to inform himself whether it was with the King of Great Britain's Consent that Baron Neuhoff has been brought back to Corsica on board an English Man of War; and whether it is not a false Story, spread purposely by himself, that he expects Succours from the Crown of Great Britain. Our Minister at Vienna is charg'd to demand the Execution of the Guaranty granted by the late Emperor Charles the Sixth, in the Year 1733, in regard to the Island of Corsica, and re- new'd and confirm'd in 1739, by the Convention relating to the Affairs of that Island sign'd at Ver- sailles by the French Ministry and the Imperial Em- bassador.

Leghorn, Feb. 16. The Master of a French Tartan lately arriv'd from Toulon reports, that Admiral Ma- thews continues to cruize off the Isles Hieres, and that his Squadron consists of no more than fifteen Men of War, he having detach'd a Squadron upon a secret Expedition.

Oporto, Feb. 2. Yesterday Morning the Fleet from England, under Convoy of his Britannick Majesty's Ship the Success, arriv'd off this Bar, and in the Af- ternoon all the Vessels bound hither got safe in, when the Success proceeded to Lisbon with the Ships bound to that Harbour.

Geneva, Feb. 25. The late Action between the Spaniards and the Austrians was very hot. The Spani- ards being well posted, and under the Advantage of the Cassines, defended themselves very well, so that all the Bravery of the Austrian and Piedmontese In- fantry was necessary to drive them from thence. The Spaniards are at Bologna, and the Austrians and Pied- montese in their former Quarters. The Spaniards in these Parts continue to file off a great Part of their Troops towards Chablais, where they have given Or- ders for the Preparation of 5000 Beds, and they reck- on to have 10,000 Men there. That Province is in so miserable a Condition, that they must send thither all the Corn they shall want. The Report of the Spa- niards having demanded a Passage for their Troops through the Valais is not confirmed: If they should do it, it is thought it would be refused. That Passage is very difficult and dangerous, and the Valesans have 4000 Men to guard it. The Marquess de Prie, Em- bassador from the Queen of Hungary, has presented a Memorial to the Helvetick Body, wherein he puts them in Mind of their Treaties with the House of Austria, complains of the Levies which some Cantons have permitted the Spaniards to make, exhorts them to a Neutrality, and to be upon their Guard against them. We do not hear that any Answer has as yet been given thereto. M. Turretin, our Deputy at Chamberry, meets with no Success, the Spaniards continuing to harrass the Inhabitants of our Estates of St. Victor and the Chapter. The 300 Men from Zurich arriv'd on Thursday. They mount Guard for the first Time this Day. They are all of that Country strong Fellows, and well cloath'd. On Wed- nesday 100 of the 600 Bernois, that we had here, were sent home. By an Express arriv'd Yesterday, and another To-day, from Lucern, we hear, that the Levies for the Spaniards go on very slowly.

Dusseldorp, Feb. 26. Letters from Juliers say, that they continue to work Night and Day on the Fortifi- cations of that City; and that the Garrison has been already augmented, and is to be further reinforced: These Precautions have been judg'd necessary on ac- count of the great Number of foreign Troops that arrive successively in that Dutchy.

Franckfort, Feb. 28. The Emperor has created the Marshal Duke de Belleisle a Prince of the Holy Ro- man Empire.

We hear from Donawart, that the first Division of the Recruits for the French Army in Bavaria is arriv'd there.

Brussels, March, 5. Advice is just come by the Way of Paris, that the Pope has made a Promotion of fourteen Cardinals, viz. M. Colonna, Major Do- mo; Barbarini, Archbishop of Ferrara; Landi, Arch- bishop of Benevento; Paolucci, Nuntio at Vienna; Crescenzi, Nuntio in France; Barni, Nuntio in Spain; Doria, Nuntio in Portugal; Ricci, Governor of Rome; Visconti, Archbishop of Milan; Tannara Millo, Auditor to his Holiness; Nicoli Cavalchini, Secretary of the Council, and another Monk or Frier, whose Name is not yet made publick.

Paris, Feb. 26. Orders are issued for raising 15,000 Troops more in this Kingdom.

Paris, Feb. 25. We have just receiv'd the following Piece of News by Letters from Madrid of the 12th Instant.

' The War Office has issu'd Orders for the Com- ' mandants of the 35 Regiments of Militia in this ' Kingdom to begin their March with their respective ' Corps for Savoy. These Orders cause a great Con- ' sternation among those Troops, as they never used ' to be sent abroad, and as most of them are married ' Men, who follow Trades, &c.

Paris, March 1. The Count de Saxe sets out this Night for Bavaria with a new Plan of Operations.

Maestricht, March 3. The Earl of Stair arriv'd here the 25th of last Month: The Governor sent a whole Company to his Quarters as a Guard, but his Excel- lency refus'd to accept them, and contented himself with a common Guard.

Brussels, March 4. The eighth Division of English Troops, consisting of the Queen's Regiment of Dra- goons, the Scotch Fuzileers, and the Regiment of General Husk, pass'd this Place the Day before Yester- day for Germany, under the Command of Major- General Cope. The Regiments of Ponsonby, Bligh, and Johnson, which form the ninth and last Division, will take the same Rout the Day after To-morrow.

Utrecht, March 8. A Letter from Manheim of the 3d Instant says, that they have receiv'd from Florence the News of the Death of the Electress Dowager Pala- tine, on the 18th of last Month, in the 74th Year of her Age.

Hague, March 3. The following Letter is handed about here, and gives great Offence to the Govern- ment.

' Monsieur le Marquess de Fenelon,

' I have receiv'd your Letter of the 24th of Janu- ' ry, to which you added the late Resolution of the ' Province of Utrecht of the 17th of that Month.

' It appears to me to be very well conceiv'd, and to ' be founded upon very strong Reasons. I am very ' well pleased with the Manner in which those States ' express themselves in regard to France, and the Jus- ' tice they do my Sentiments for the Republick. I ' hope the Example of this Province will inspire ' others with Courage to resist the Suggestions of ' those who have more their own Interest at Heart ' than the Support of the Queen of Hungary. I am ' far from being ignorant of their Projects, and of the ' Reports they spread, to encourage my Enemies; ex- ' patiating by Turns on the Ambition and on the Dis- ' tresses of France. I will make it appear by my Con- ' duct, that they are equally mistaken as to one and ' the other. I desire nothing but Peace, provided it ' be offer'd on reasonable Terms to my Allies; but ' they shall always receive from me sufficient Succours ' against such as would oblige them to accept ignomi- ' nious Conditions. I have always spoke this Lan- ' guage since the Beginning of the Troubles, and in ' this Temper I shall persevere, till I am directly at- ' tack'd. I pray God to have you, Monsieur le Mar- ' quess de Fenelon, in his great and holy Protection. ' Done at Versailles, Feb. 3, 1743.

' LOUIS.

IRELAND.

Dublin Castle, Feb. 21. Their Excellencies the Lords Justices have been pleased to sign the proper Warrant, pursuant to his Majesty's Royal Licence for that Pur- pose, constituting and appointing William Yorke, Esq; one of the Justices of his Majesty's Court of Common- Pleas in this Kingdom, in the room of Robert Lindsay, Esq; deceas'd; and Letters Patent are preparing to pass the Great Seal accordingly.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, Feb. 21. We have had very high Winds of late, and great Swellings of the Waters, by which many Dam-Dykes have been carry'd away; and from Stirlingshire we are told, that that most ancient Mo- nument of Antiquity, reckon'd upwards of 2000 Years old, known by the Name of *Arthur's Oven*, is thrown down.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Norwich, Feb. 26. One Day last Week the Crown Alehouse at Caston-Woodrow was burnt to the Ground; and Yesterday a Woman who offer'd to sell some Silver Spoons, was carry'd before the Mayor, who sent her to Bridewell, she having own'd that she stole the Spoons out of the above-mention'd Alehouse while the House was in Flames. It's reported there is a considerable Sum of Money missing.

Briſtol, Feb. 16. We have an Account from Bedminſter of a Murder committed there about three Months ſince, on the Body of a Pariſh Girl, by Edward Line, (Tythingman of the ſaid Pariſh, by Trade a Weaver) and his two Sons, James and Thomas, and Suſannah his Daughter; which, in all its Circumſtances, is much ſuch another horrible Affair as Madam Branche's.

This Murder was brought to Light on account of the ſaid Edward Line's threatning to ſue one Thomas Short, at the Ship in Bedminſter, for hinting ſome Matters relating to the Murder, and being an Inſtrument in having the Child dug up, 14 Days after it was buried, and examin'd, when the Marks of Violence appear'd in a conſpicuous Manner, on the Face, Temples, Back, &c. which reaching the Ear of Col. Codrington, thoſe horrid Circumſtances, and the Depoſition of James Stokes, who was an Eye Witneſs to the Cruelty, and liv'd in the Family at the Charge of the Pariſh, occaſion'd their being all apprehended and committed to Ivelcheſter Gaol on Wedneſday laſt, under a ſtrong Guard.

She was the Daughter of a poor Woman who happen'd to beg thro' Bedminſter, was taken up by the ſaid Line when big with Child, and the Deceas'd in her Hand, which ſo frighten'd the Woman that ſhe died a few Days after; and the poor Child being convey'd to its proper Pariſh, but refus'd Acceptance by the Pariſhioners, was then brought back to Line's Houſe, and entertain'd at the Pariſh Charge.

[redacted]

LONDON.

All the Letters from the *Recruiting Officers* in every Part of England, but more eſpecially Wiltſhire and Somerſetſhire, give an Account of what prodigious Succeſs they meet with in their Levies; and that they did not doubt that if ten more Regiments were to be rais'd, but they could ſoon compleat them.—— *To the* Military Gentlemen *this may ſeem good News; but what alas! does it prove? That our* Woollen Manufacture *decays; and that as great Numbers of poor Fellows* want Work, *they inliſt merely for the* Want *of* Bread.

It is aſcertain'd, that ſeveral more Regiments and Detachments of Guards will be ſent to Flanders, for which Place ſeveral General Officers will ſoon ſet out: ——*The Campaign being to open very early.*

There is a Report, that the Diſpatches lately receiv'd from the Earl of Stair, have occaſion'd ſome *new Meaſures* to be reſolv'd on, and that his *Majeſty*, ſoon after the Riſing of the Parliament, will ſet out for *Germany*, his *Preſence* being *abſolutely* neceſſary.

They work inceſſantly Day and Night, Sundays not excepted, at the Tower, to get ready a large Train of Artillery deſign'd for Flanders.

Tueſday Morning Advice came that the Tranſports with General Howard's Regiment of Foot on board, from Newcaſtle, arriv'd ſafe in the Harbour of Oſtend laſt Sunday in the Afternoon.

Laſt Tueſday was held a Board of Admiralty, when their Lordſhips were pleaſed to appoint Capt. Toms to be Captain of the Aldborough Man of War, a 20 Gun Ship.

We are inform'd, that Commodore Knowles, with a two Men of War of ſixty, two of fifty, two of forty-and two of twenty Guns, together with one Bomb-Ketch, Store-Ships, &c. are ſail'd for Porto Cavello, which lies to the Weſtward of La Guerre, on the Coaſt of the Carraccas, in order to make a Settlement there; and it is thought they will firſt make a Viſit to La Guerre.

Capt. Boſcawen is choſen Member of Parliament for Penryn in Cornwall, in the room of Admiral Vernon.

By private Letters from Rome of the 14th paſt, N. S. we have a very melancholy Account of the ſurpriſing Progreſs an Epidemical Diſtemper, call'd the *Influenza*, makes there; that in one Day 500 Perſons were carry'd to their Graves by it, others prior and ſubſequent in proportion; that ſcarce a noble Family in that City had not loſt ſome Perſon; and that Hearſes, Coffins, and the Hoſt carrying to the Sick, were to be met with in all the Streets. They obſerve from thence, that this Diſtemper began in Saxony laſt September, had viſited Venice, Genoa, Milan and Florence; in the latter it ſtill continued; that it had reach'd the City of Naples, but had not made much Havock; That the Venetians had began a Land Quarantine; and that it was expected the Sea Coaſts of other Countries would do the ſame. Tho' not in itſelf a Plague, the Phyſicians of thoſe Parts reckon it a Forerunner.

Thurſday ſe'nnight Benjamin Tate, of Mitcham, Eſq; was married to Miſs Alcroft, of the ſame Place, a young Lady of Merit, and a Fortune of 8000 l.

The ſame Day was married, at Kentiſh-Town Chapel, Mr. Iſaac Barrow, an eminent Maltſter of Nottinghamſhire, to Miſs Judith Venables, of Red-Lion-Street, an agreeable young Lady with a Fortune of 10,000 l.

Sunday Mr. Iſaac Lownds, a wealthy Coal Merchant, in Rotherhith, was marry'd to Miſs Sarah Clark, of the ſame Place, a celebrated Beauty, with a Fortune of 5000 l.

Laſt Tueſday the Rev. Mr. Hilman, Minor Canon of St. Paul's, was married to Miſs Betty Barrowby, ſecond Daughter of Dr. Barrowby, a very eminent Phyſician; an agreeable Lady with a handſome Fortune.

On Saturday the Lady of the Right Hon. the Lord Cornwallis was ſafely deliver'd of a Son at his Lordſhip's Houſe in Dover-ſtreet.

Laſt Monday Night an Expreſs arriv'd from Holland, with an Account of the Death of the Right Hon. the Lady Forreſter, one of the Ladies of the Bed-Chamber to her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs of Orange.

Yeſterday ſe'nnight died, after a ſhort Illneſs, in Upper Groſvenor-Street, Mr. Reading, Secretary to the Biſhop of Winchester. He was a Gentleman of a very fair Character, who, 'tis ſaid, has for a long Time given at leaſt 100 l. per Annum in Charity.

The ſame Day died, at his Houſe in Black's-Fields, Southwark, Mr. William Gregory, an eminent and wealthy Corn-Factor, reputed worth 10,000 l.

The ſame Day died, at Weſtbury in Wiltſhire, Mr. Booth, Supervifor of Exciſe for that Diſtrict.

Laſt Week died at her Seat at Denham, Mrs. Probyn, Relict of —— Probyn, Eſq; Brother to the late Judge Probyn: She was Siſter to the Lady Edwin of Great Ormond-ſtreet.

Saturday Morning laſt died, at his Houſe at Lambeth, Mr. Stone, formerly an eminent wholeſale Linnen Draper, on Tower-Hill, reputed worth 10,000l.

Monday Morning died at Kenſington the Lady Frances Bentinck, youngeſt Daughter to his Grace the Duke of Portland.

On Monday Night died in Queen-ſtreet, Weſtminſter, Mr. Read, an eminent Diſtiller, reputed worth 10,000 l.

On Saturday laſt a Grant paſs'd the Great Seal unto Metcalf Graham, Eſq; to be Searcher, &c. of the Cuſtoms at Newcaſtle upon Tyne, and all the Ports and Places thereunto belonging, in the room of John Lowther, Eſq; deceas'd, Brother to Sir William Lowther, Bart.

Laſt Week the Rev. Stavely Parker, M. A. was appointed by his Majeſty Chaplain to the Britiſh Factory at Liſbon, in the room of the Rev. Mr. Morgan, who has reſign'd.

The Rev. Mr. Andrew Pern, Rector of Norton in Suffolk, is preſented, by Granado Pigott, Eſq; to the Rectory of Abington, near Shengey in the County of Cambridge.

On Saturday laſt a Diſpenſation paſs'd the Great Seal to enable the Rev. Henry Whitfield, M. A. Chaplain to the Right Hon. the Lord Cadogan, to hold the Rectory of Caſtle-Eaton, in the County of Wilts and Dioceſe of Sarum, together with the Vicarage of Bradwell, in the County and Dioceſe of Oxford.

The ſame Day a Diſpenſation paſs'd the Great Seal to enable the Rev. Matthew Poſtlethwayt, M. A. Chaplain to the Right Rev. Thomas Lord Biſhop of Norwich, to hold the Rectory of Diſton, in the County of Norfolk, and Dioceſe of Norwich; together with the Rectory of Reginhaw, and the Chapel of Harleſton, in the County and Dioceſe aforeſaid.

On Saturday laſt a Diſpenſation paſs'd the Great Seal to enable the Rev. William Harris, M. A. Chaplain to the Right Rev. John Lord Biſhop of Llandaff, to hold the Rectory of Biſhopſton, in the County of Glamorgan and Dioceſe of St. David's, together with the Rectory of Marcroſs, in the County of Glamorgan and Dioceſe of Llandaff.

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Alſo the ſame Day a Diſpenſation paſs'd the Great Seal to enable the Rev. Mr. James Carter to hold the Rectory of Wellingham St. Mary, in the County of Norfolk and Dioceſe of Norwich.

Likewiſe a Diſpenſation to Mr. Thomas Birch, to hold the Rectory of Loudewy Welfrey, in the County of Pembroke and Dioceſe of St. David's.

The Gin Bill is paſs'd both Houſes, and lies ready for the Royal Aſſent.

On Friday laſt a Trial came on between the Right Hon. the Counteſs Dowager of Ferrers and Henry Rowley, before his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace at Hicks's Hall, whom ſhe indicted upon an Act of Parliament of the 5th of Queen Elizabeth, Chap. 21, for having broke down her Ladyſhip's Pond at Twickenham, and taken thirty-nine Carp out of it, after draining the ſaid Pond of all the Water that was in it, of which he was found guilty, and is to receive the Puniſhment preſcrib'd by the ſaid Act, to wit, that he ſhall ſuffer three Months Impriſonment in the County Gaol without Bail or Mainprize, pay treble Damage to her Ladyſhip, to remain in Gaol till it is paid, and at the Expiration of the ſaid Impriſonment to find ſufficient Sureties for his good Behaviour for ſeven Years. It is hop'd this will be a Warning to all Poachers not to be guilty of the like Offence.

Thurſday ſe'nnight two Seamen, belonging to the Friends-Adventure of York, lying off the Tower, having ſome Words about a Wig, which each of them claim'd the Property of, they fought, and both tumbled over-board and were drown'd in the Sight of a great Number of People.

On Saturday laſt two Sailors aboard the Winchester, Capt. Steward, bound for India, quarrell'd upon a trifling Occaſion, and in the Heat of the Diſpute one of them ſtabb'd the other with a Claſp Knife between the Ribs, and kill'd him on the Spot.

Wedneſday ſe'nnight, in the Afternoon, Mr. Bull, a Farmer at Sydenham, was attack'd by a ſingle Highwayman well mounted, on Black-heath, and robb'd of five Moidores, ſome Silver, and his Watch; who at his Departure deſir'd Mr. Bull to bring more Money with him when he came that Way, or otherwiſe he ſhould take it very ill.

On Saturday Night about Eleven o'Clock, Mr. Iſaac Markes, a Tallow-Chandler at Deptford, was attack'd by four Ruffians in Peckham-Rye, who us'd him in a barbarous Manner, and afterwards robb'd him of 6 l. which he had juſt before receiv'd.

On Sunday two Men were committed to the Gate-houſe, Weſtminſter, by James Fraſer, Eſq; for robbing Mrs. Hannah Lowrie, in her Houſe, of ſeveral Things; there were two other Perſons concern'd not taken. She was uſed very ill by them, and was afraid of being kill'd.

On Sunday Night laſt, about Nine o'Clock, two Fellows enter'd the Houſe of Mrs. Rogers in Bermondſey-Street, Southwark, (her Niece being at a Neighbour's) and finding her alone bound her in her Chair, threatning her Life if ſhe offer'd to call or make any Diſturbance, and afterwards went up Stairs, broke open her Drawers, carry'd away upwards of 11 l. in Money, and wiſh'd her a good Night at parting.

Diligent Search is making after the Perſons concerned in the barbarous Murder of the two Sailors who were drove aſhore lately in the County of Carnarvon; to further which his Majeſty has been pleaſed to promiſe his moſt gracious Pardon to any one of them concerned, who ſhall diſcover his Accompices, except the Perſon who actually committed the Murder.

Yesterday se'nnight the Sessions ended at the O'd Baily, when the five following Malefactors receiv'd Sentence of Death, viz.

James Smith, for breaking open the House of Mrs. Dobney, a Midwife, on Clerkenwell-Green, and stealing from thence a Silk Gown and other Things.

James Roberts, a Chairman, for assaulting Thomas Dell, a Boy belonging to Mess. Craig and Neville, Silversmiths, and robbing him of a Leather Bag and a Parcel of Silver Plate.

Stephen Wright, for assaulting Mr. Belchier, a [redacted]

John Waite, late Cashier of the Bank of England, was try'd for feloniously stealing several East-India Bonds. The Counsel against him were Sir John Strange and Mr. Bootle; the Prisoner's Counsel were Mr. Serjeant Wynne, Mr. Serjeant Agar, Mr. Serjeant Hayward, and Counsellor Kettleby, by whom some Points of Law were learnedly argued for several Hours. On the Conclusion the Prisoner was acquitted of the Felony; but was arrested at the Suit of the Bank for 13,300 l. and last Monday was remov'd by Habeas Corpus to the King's-Bench Prison.

Capt. Wilson, for killing Capt. Skerret in a Duel at the Tilt-Yard Coffee House, was found guilty of Manslaughter.

The John James, Causey, from the Bay of Honduras for Holland, is taken by the Spaniards and carried into the Havanna. The Captain and most of the Crew belong'd to Dover.

Capt. Robinson, belonging to the Gasket Lights, was lately taken, under the Guns, in the Road of Havre-de-Grace by a Privateer, mann'd chiefly by French, and was stripp'd and very ill us'd by the Crew.

On the 21st past a Brigantine belonging to Swanzey, bound from London to Dublin, was taken off the Start by a Spanish Privateer; as was likewise at the same time a Sloop laden with Tobacco and Brandy, and both sent into Cherburg.

Extract of a Letter from Barbadoes, Jan. 9.

'His Majesty's Ship the Norwich, Capt. Gregory, 'who lately, arriv'd here, is sail'd again for Antigua. 'The Burford and Advice Men of War are still here; 'they press a great many Hands out of the Vessels that 'put in here: The 17th of December two impress'd 'Men jump'd over-board from the Advice in Carlisle 'Bay, with a Design to swim ashore, but were both 'devour'd by the Sharks in Sight of the Ship, before 'the Boat which was sent after them could get to their 'Assistance.

From the London Gazette.

Whitehall, Feb. 25. On Tuesday last, in the Afternoon, Brigadier Burmania, Master of the Horse to his most Serene Highness the Prince of Orange, arriv'd here Express from Leuwarden, with an Account that on the 28th Instant her Royal Highness the Princess of Orange was happily deliver'd of a Princess.

Whitehall, Feb. 26. The King has been pleas'd to make the following Promotion of General Officers in his Army, viz. General of Horse, Philip Honeywood, General of Foot, Lord Mark Kerr. Lieutenants General, Clement Nevill, Sir John Arnot, Bart. William Hargrave, Henry Cornewall, Henry Harrison, Thomas Howard, John Cope, John Ligonier. Majors General, Charles Duke of Richmond, John Guize, William Anne Earl of Albemarle, his Royal Highness William Duke of Cumberland, George Read, Stephen Cornwallis, Archibald Hamilton, John Earl of Rothes. Brigadiers General, Alexander Irwyn, Richard St. George, John Campbell, William Blackney, William Handasyd, Humphry Bland, James Oglethorpe, John Lord Delawar, Charles Duke of Marlborough.

BANKRUPTS.

Thomas Atkinson, of Beer-Lane, London, Merchant.

John Ferguson, of Katherine-Court, Tower-Hill, London, Merchant.

Christopher Greene, late of Southwark in the County of Surrey, Linnen-draper and Chapman.

Edward Gostwyke, of North Tawton in the County Devon, Shopkeeper.

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II. Abstract of a Vindication of the Pamphlet, intitled, The Case of the Hanover Troops in the Pay of Great Britain consider'd.

III. Abstract of a Pamphlet, intitled, The Question stated with regard to our Army in Flanders.

IV. List of Members, as they stood on the 10th of December last.

V. Extract from Mr. St. John's remarkable Speech to the Lords in the great Case of Ship-Money, in the Reign of King Charles I.

VI. Some Thoughts on British and French Brandies, &c. with a Proposal for the Advantage of the Landed and Trading Interests.

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